

ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT KENTUCKY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



The Council recognizes the important role that independent colleges and universities play in providing access to postsecondary education across the Commonwealth. Quality undergraduate and graduate programs offered by these institutions are integral to enhancing the educational attainment levels of Kentuckians and improving the quality of life in their communities and regions.



ROLE OF KENTUCKY'S INDEPENDENT POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

House Bill 1 and legislation passed in the 2002 session of the Kentucky General Assembly specifically reference “the rich and diverse postsecondary education choices” offered by Kentucky’s independent institutions and state that “this vital component of the system will be a full partner in the greater system of postsecondary education” [KRS 164.003 (6)]. Further, KRS 164.020 (13)(31) calls on the Council to promote maximum cooperation between the public and independent sectors of postsecondary education and consider the role, function, and capacity of these institutions in policy and program development.

Since the early 1990s, the independent colleges and universities have provided extensive unit record data and program information to the Council to facilitate effective cooperation and improve planning. These reports respond to the needs of the Commonwealth to effectively plan and coordinate postsecondary resources. The independent institutions have been full partners in the current strategic planning and key indicator development process. The Council recognizes that the value of independent postsecondary education lies in its diversity and independent governance, and welcomes this high level of cooperation.



PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Question 1: Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?

To support the preparation of high school graduates and working-age adults for postsecondary education and to strengthen the preparation and development of P-12 and adult educators, Kentucky's independent colleges and universities will:

Enhance the education of Kentucky's P-12 students, particularly those from underserved populations, through participation in GEAR UP, TRIO, and other federal, state, and private programs designed to improve graduation and college-going rates, and through community service activities including tutoring, mentoring, and coaching that provide school-age children and adult learners with additional preparation and encouragement to continue their education.

Encourage greater linkages among educational providers, academic alignment among educational levels, and broader access to education through increased independent college involvement in local and regional P-16 organizations.

Improve P-12 and adult education through quality professional development programs for K-12 teachers and adult education providers in a range of content and pedagogy areas.

Create economies of scale, capitalize on best practices, and expand access to quality teacher preparation programs and services through increased collaboration and joint activities among independent sector teacher preparation programs.

Expand the ability to produce highly qualified teachers, especially in subject areas with large numbers of emergency certified faculty.



Question 2: Is Kentucky postsecondary education affordable for its citizens?

To keep college affordable, Kentucky's independent colleges and universities will:

Improve public awareness of financial aid opportunities and college financing strategies through increased outreach activities, including information sessions for middle and high school students and families, improved communication with KCTCS and adult education students, and collaborative efforts like Private College Week and GoHigherKy.org.

Help students overcome the financial barriers to postsecondary education by limiting tuition increases, by aggressively advocating for adequate federal and state student aid, and by increasing institutionally funded student aid to offset rising education costs.

Implement cost-saving strategies, such as joint academic programming, collaborative "back office" functions, and multi-institutional purchasing and licensing strategies, which can be passed on to students in the form of increased financial aid and moderated tuition increases.

Monitor the ability of Kentucky students to pay for college through ongoing assessments of affordability and access.

Question 3: Do more Kentuckians have certificates and degrees?

To enroll more students, produce more graduates, keep graduates in Kentucky, attract highly educated adults to the state, and encourage workers to retool and retrain over their lifetimes, Kentucky's independent colleges and universities will:

Improve the ability of students to transition easily among institutions and between education levels by increasing the number of educational partnerships and articulation agreements among independent institutions, with KCTCS, and with the public universities.

Encourage higher retention rates and timely degree completion through greater personal interaction with students, early intervention strategies for at-risk students, mentoring in and outside the classroom, and comprehensive academic advising.



Increase the number of degree completion programs with KCTCS institutions to allow two-year graduates seamless access to a four-year degree.

Expand off-campus, online, cohort-based, and other nontraditional program delivery strategies to encourage greater college going and degree completion for students who might otherwise not take advantage of existing program offerings.

Develop targeted degree and certificate programs in disciplines that respond to consumer demand and employer needs.

Question 4: Are college graduates prepared for life and work in Kentucky?

To improve the quality of student learning, Kentucky's independent colleges and universities will:

Provide a strong liberal arts-based educational experience emphasizing personal growth and responsibility, informed decision-making, openness to diverse perspectives, civic engagement, and leadership.

Introduce students to real-world, professional experiences while in school by offering a range of internships, co-op programs, and volunteer opportunities.

Broaden students' understanding and appreciation of international issues and cultures by encouraging student participation in foreign study programs, increasing the numbers of international faculty and students on campus, and providing international professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.

Strengthen career development programs that prepare students for the job market and workforce, act as clearinghouses for available positions, and match students with employers through job fairs and other activities.

Evaluate the quality of academic programs and student learning by monitoring student performance on licensure and professional school examinations, performing quality reviews of academic programs, and regularly assessing student and alumni satisfaction.





Question 5: Are Kentucky's people, communities, and economy benefiting?

To support economic and community development and address the specific needs and challenges of the Commonwealth, Kentucky's independent colleges and universities will:

Increase the production of graduates prepared to support the state's new economy initiatives.

Pursue new opportunities to assist adults in gaining the skills needed to be productive employees and citizens.

Expand community partnerships to provide citizen access to a range of cultural and literary activities on campus.

Establish partnerships with businesses to train employees in new job-related processes.

Share best practices between campuses; develop multiple campus strategies; and seek innovative partnerships with foundations, the Commonwealth, and other interested parties in order to expand services to the state and communities.

KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS

QUESTION 1

Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?

- Quality of teacher preparation programs

QUESTION 2

Is Kentucky postsecondary education affordable for its citizens?

- Net cost of attendance as a percent of average family income

QUESTION 3

Do more Kentuckians have certificates and degrees?

- Undergraduate enrollment
- Graduate enrollment
- Number of students transferring to Kentucky's independent colleges and universities from KCTCS
- Six-year graduation rate of baccalaureate students
- Number of degrees and other credentials awarded
- Number of degrees and other credentials awarded to racial-ethnic minorities

QUESTION 4

Are college graduates prepared for life and work in Kentucky?

- No indicators for Kentucky's independent colleges and universities

QUESTION 5

Are Kentucky's people, communities, and economy benefiting?

- No indicators for Kentucky's independent colleges and universities